

Connecticut Association of Residential Care Homes

Testimony In Favor of

H.B. No. 6594- AN ACT CONCERNING RESIDENTIAL CARE HOMES AND DEFINITIONS OF "NURSING HOME FACILITY" AND "MEDICAL REVIEW COMMITTEE."

Public Health Committee- March 20, 2013

Senator Gerratana, Representative Johnson and members of the Public Health Committee. On behalf of the Connecticut Association of Residential Care Homes I would like to offer testimony in support of House Bill 6594- An Act Concerning Residential Care Homes and Definitions of Nursing Home Facility.

The proposed legislation would create a definition of residential care home separate from "nursing home facility." The legislation does not change the intent or application of any current statutes. All currently applicable statutes would apply to residential care homes by adding "residential care home" to those statutes that use the term "nursing home facility."

Connecticut has about 100 residential care homes in the state with approximately 2,700 total beds. Residential care homes provide a special combination of housing, personalized supportive services and care designed to respond to the individual needs of those who require a little more help with their activities of daily living but who do not need the skilled medical or nursing care provided in a nursing home. Residents include some of the state's most vulnerable people. About sixty percent of residents have mental disabilities while the remaining residents are elderly individuals.

The proposed legislation would clarify the legislative statutes by establishing a definition of residential care home separate from a nursing home. Under C.G.S. section 19a-521, residential care homes are included in the definition of "nursing home facility" with chronic and convalescent nursing homes and rest homes that provide nursing supervision. House Bill 6594 would provide a unique definition to "residential care home" by defining a residential care home as "an establishment that furnishes, in single or multiple facilities, food and shelter to two or more persons unrelated to the proprietor and, in addition, provides services that meet a need beyond the basic provisions of food, shelter and laundry."

Since residential care homes are not medical facilities, they should be treated differently than nursing homes. Unlike nursing homes which are paid through Medicaid, residential care homes are paid through the Aid to the Aged, Blind & Disabled line items because they provide a non-medical service. Ultimately, this legislation would provide legislators with the ability to distinguish between residential care homes and other facilities like nursing homes when appropriate.

We thank you for raising the current bill and urge the committee to support the bill. Thank you.